

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 12 of 1897.]

REPORT  
ON  
NATIVE PAPERS  
FOR THE

Week ending the 20th March 1897.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	20,000	13th March, 1897.	
2	" Basumati" ...	Ditto	.....	11th ditto.	
3	" Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	16th ditto.	
4	" Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	12th ditto.	
5	" Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	13th ditto.	
6	" Navayuga" ...	Ditto	290	13th ditto.	
7	" Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	10th ditto.	
8	" Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	12th ditto.	
9	" Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	13th ditto.	
10	" Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	15th ditto.	
11	" Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	13th ditto.	
12	" Vikrampur" ...	Ditto	200	12th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	" Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	300	13th and 15th March, 1897.	
2	" Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrokri." ...	Ditto	1,000	14th to 18th March, 1897.	
3	" Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,132	13th and 17th ditto.	
4	" Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	" Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	12th, 13th, 15th, 16th and 18th March, 1897.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	2,000	11th March, 1897.	
2	" Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000		
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Hubbul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500		
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	11th ditto.	
2	" General and Gauharieshi"	Ditto	330	7th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500		
2	" Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	550		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	250	9th ditto.	
2	" Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	620	14th ditto.	
3	" Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,280	12th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Presidency Division.</i>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	696	10th ditto.	
2	" Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	300	.....	
3	" Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	12th March, 1897.	This paper is neither regularly published nor regularly issued.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<b>URIYA.</b>	<b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	10th and 17th February, 1897.	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190	11th and 18th February, 1897.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309	10th and 17th February, 1897.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	480	13th and 20th February, 1897.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>	<b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	... About 600		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	... 1,000	13th March 1897.	
	<b>URDU.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	... 600		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	... 400		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>BHAGALPUR DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda	... .....		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	243	10th ditto.	
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Bangpur	180	11th ditto.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	... 700		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	315	13th ditto.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal	... .....		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	... 900	8th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	... 2,400	14th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur	... .....		
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	... About 500	13th ditto.	
	<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	... 500	15th ditto.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla	... 900		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	... 120	12th ditto.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>ASSAM.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" ...	Sylhet	... .....		

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

**THE Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide** of the 11th March is sorry for the publication issued by Mr. MacColl a clergyman, in which many strong words are used against the Sultan of Turkey, and which contains much abuse

**Abuse of the Sultan and the Musalmans.** of the Muhammadans in general. The book will give rise to much ill-feeling; and unless Government does to its Muhammadan subjects the favour of disallowing the publication of similar works in future, terrible disquiet and even bloodshed may be anticipated in Europe. By the offensive and unjustifiable speeches of Mr. Gladstone and of some European clergymen against the Sultan, Muhammadan ill-feeling and disaffection against Christians have been intensified.

2. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 13th March says that if the *Englishman* newspaper has still any doubt as to whether the *The Indian Musalman's Sultan.* Sultan of Turkey is looked upon by Indian Musalmans as their Caliph, its doubt ought to be set completely at rest by the fact that a congregation of about thirty thousand Musalmans in Amritsar in the Punjab, and in fact every Musalman in the world, offered up prayers for the safety of the Sultan on the day of the *Idul-Fitr*.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

3. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 8th March complains that **Tigers in Jamalpur in the Mymensingh Mymensingh district.** tigers are infesting Jamalpur in the Mymensingh district. People cannot go to sleep at night for fear lest their cattle be taken away, and no one ventures to go out after dusk. The authorities, however, are quite indifferent in the matter. The helpless condition of the Jamalpur people ought to make the Government ashamed of the Arms Act.

4. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that *badmashes* are **Badmashes in a village in the Mymensingh district.** becoming more and more rampant in Kapasatia within the jurisdiction of the Bajitpur thana in the Mymensingh district. Neither life, property, nor honour is safe at their hands. A few days ago they set fire to the house of Babu Nanda Kumar Rai; but they were unsuccessful in a similar attempt against the house of Hara Govinda Gop.

5. The *Samay* of the 12th March complains that anonymous leaflets, **Distribution of libellous leaflets in Calcutta.** libelling Babu Heramba Chandra Maitra's wife, are being widely posted. There is a post-office rule to the effect that it will not deliver libellous communications. But these leaflets are so folded that the post-office cannot suspect them to be libellous. The writer has received one such pamphlet, the filthiest of its kind, signed by one Nirakar Chandra Gargari. The author, of course, does not give out his name, and takes shelter under a *nom de plume*. But it is not difficult to find out who he is. It is some relief that the editor of the *Hitavadi* has been punished. If he had been acquitted, men like the writers of these anonymous leaflets would have made matters too hot for Brahmos and Brahmo ladies. These people are *badmashi* and shamelessness incarnate. There is no crime which they cannot commit.

6. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 12th March writes that, thanks **The police in the last Sitakunda mela.** to police arrangements, the *mohunt* could not oppress the pilgrims at the last Sitakunda *mela*. He did not sell tickets or construct railings. The police constables, however, demanded and took bribes. The Head-constable, Zalim Singh, however, tried to maintain perfect order at the Chandra Nath temple. His conduct was unimpeachable.

7. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 13th March says, it will be remembered **Oppression of a Musalman tenant on the Narail estate.** that one Maulvi Abdur Rauf of Gayespur in the Jessore district, a tenant of the Narail zamindars, was fined Rs. 104 by the naib of the Mustafapur cutcherry for eating beef (Report on Native Papers for 2nd January, paragraph 4). The Maulvi has paid Rs. 16 in two instalments, but *sulm* is being

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Mar. 11th, 1897.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Mar. 8th, 1897.

CHARU MIHIR.

SAMAY,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

SANSODHINI,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

committed upon him for payment of the full amount. Is there anarchy in this country ?

HITAISHI,  
Mar. 16th, 1897.

8. The *Hitaishi* of the 16th March has learnt from a correspondent that on the occasion of the late mock fight on the Belgharia *Chandmari* grounds, not only were the people of the villages near them inconvenienced by the closing of public thoroughfares, but the soldiers committed oppressions on the villagers by plucking fruits, &c., and attempting to outrage the modesty of poor women. The Government shirked all responsibility in the matter from its own shoulders by issuing a proclamation, which few knew of, requiring the villagers to take all necessary precautions in view of the fight and the assembling of soldiers. Is it not better to hold target-shooting and mock fights on fields far removed from human habitations ?

CHARU MIHIR,  
. 8th, 1897.

9. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 8th March says that Maulvi Azhar, Deputy Magistrate of Netrakona, in the Mymensingh district, never comes to Court before 2 to 3 P.M., and holds Court till 10 P.M. There is, besides, no method in his work. Applications for taking down complainants' statements are granted or refused at his own discretion, and the statements are taken down in a most perfunctory fashion. After taking down the statements, he refers cases for local investigation to the panchayats, who submit reports in favour of those who pay them most handsomely. And the correctness of the panchayats' reports is never questioned by the Maulvi. Those cases which cannot be dismissed off-hand have their dates of hearing repeatedly changed.

10. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 10th March says that the whimsical conduct of the European hakims has worried people out of all endurance. Under Sir Charles Elliott and some other Governors such hakims

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Mar. 10th, 1897.

oppressed the people without let or hindrance. But one is pained to find high-handed conduct in European Magistrates under Sir Alexander Mackenzie. If the people cannot escape official oppression under a Governor like him, then it will never fall to their lot to escape such oppression. From the poor stamp-vendor, Matilal of Siwan, to the richest zamindar in the province, no one seems at present to be safe against it. Rai Banamali Rai Bahadur is a zamindar of Serajganj in the Pabna district, and leads a retired life in Brindaban. Lately a man complained to Mr. Emerson, Subdivisional Officer of Serajganj, that he had been oppressed by a naib of Banamali Rai. The hakim at once issued notices against Banamali Rai under section 155 or section 156 requiring his personal attendance in Court. Banamali Babu having failed to comply with the order on account of his absence in Brindaban, the Magistrate, a few days later, issued a warrant against him. It is true the High Court has reversed the Magistrate's order and saved Banamali Babu further trouble; but is it within everybody's means to move the High Court against every whimsical action of the mufassal Hakims ?

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 10th, 1897.

11. The *Sahachar* of the 10th March says that there is just now a difference of opinion between the High Court and the Government of Bengal regarding the continuance in service of Subordinate Judges after they have attained their 55th year. The High Court maintains that Subordinate Judges become unfit for service after 55, and should, on attaining that age, be made to retire. Besides the reason put forward by the High Court, there is another reason why Subordinate Judges should not be allowed to continue in service after 55 years, namely, that such continuance blocks the promotion of junior officers and disheartens them. It is therefore hoped that the Government will accept the High Court's view of the matter.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

12. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th March says that some schoolboys of Purulia having slightly damaged a boat belonging to the Club of the local English residents were arrested at the order of the local Civil Surgeon and sent before the local Deputy Magistrate. The Civil Surgeon requested the police to conduct the prosecution. The Deputy Magistrate, counting upon

The question of keeping Subordinate Judges in service after their 55th year.

Mr. Luson, Deputy Commissioner of Purulia.

the generosity of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Luson, discharged the boys, and Mr. Luson called the boys to his house and gently explained to them in Bengali that they had done wrong. When the head-master asked Mr. Luson whether the boys should be fined at school he replied, "certainly not." Officials of this type are the true pride of the English people.

13. The same paper says that there was an affray between Nilmani Biswas and Charu Chandra Benerjee of Serampore. A case Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb, was instituted, and it came on for hearing before Deputy Magistrate of Serampore. Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb. Nilmani prayed

for a transfer of the case to some other file, on the ground that the Kumar said, "I will discharge the accused (Charu Chandra Banerjee and others) this night before the completion of the case." The prayer was rejected. The Deputy Magistrate let off Charu Chandra and his men, and sentenced Nilmani and his men to undergo six months' imprisonment each. But on appeal the sentence was quashed. The writer has heard many complaints against the Kumar. He has long been at Serampore and should be transferred.

14. The same paper refers to the order passed by Mr. Justice Rampini for Mr. Justice Rampini in a Sessions case. a re-trial of the case against Jitendra Kumar Datta, in spite of eight among the nine jurors pronouncing him not guilty, and in spite of a statement by the

counsel for the complainant that his client was unwilling to conduct the prosecution any longer, and remarks that it is by acts of this nature that the High Court is lowering itself in the estimation of the public. In any other country a case of this kind would have been struck off as soon as the complainant expressed his unwillingness to conduct it.

15. The *Sanjivani* of the 13th March observes that, as Subdivisional Officer of Meherpur, Mr. Luson was notorious for Mr Luson. his highhandedness. But as Deputy Commissioner of Purulia he was a changed man. Some schoolboys in a prank damaged a boat belonging to the Club of the European residents of Purulia. For this offence the Civil Surgeon hauled up the boys before the Deputy Magistrate, who set them at liberty. Mr. Luson was not in town. When he came back he called the boys to his presence and read them a lecture. The head-master wrote to the Deputy Commissioner enquiring whether he would fine the offending boys. Mr. Luson answered in the negative. For this kindness and consideration Mr. Luson is entitled to the thanks of the public.

16. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 14th March says that two boys, Kunja Kapali and Rajmohan Kapali, who had been sentenced by the Deputy Magistrate of Munshiganj in the Dacca district to two months' imprisonment and a fine of ten rupees each, were to have been

A serious omission by the Sub-divisional Officer of Munshiganj in the Dacca district. released from the Dacca Jail on the 6th March last. But their father, who went to bring them home, was told by the jailor that the convicts could not be released so long as their fines were not paid. The man told the jailor that the fines had been paid on the 29th December last, and fetched and showed the receipt. But the jailor still refused to release the boys, because it was ascertained that he could not set them free so long as the Sub-divisional Officer of Munshiganj did not intimate to him the payment of the fines. It was therefore only after the poor man went to Munshiganj and got the necessary intimation despatched to the Dacca jailor that the boys were released on the 10th March.

The native press is silent on this vagary of a Brahmo Deputy Magistrate, but it would have lost its head over the matter if the officer had been a European.

17. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 15th March complains of the prevailing Nepotism in the Dacca Collectorate. favouritism and nepotism in the Dacca Collectorate. The District Magistrate demanded an explanation from the office people, and a report has been submitted. The writer has not seen this report, but it is most likely that an attempt has been made to deceive the Magistrate by showing that the office employés belong to different places, and could not therefore have got their posts through nepotism. But a village has many *paras*, and men of one and

HITAVADI,  
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SANJIVANI  
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DACCA PRAKASH,  
Mar. 14th, 1897.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Mar. 15th, 1897.

the same village can be shown as belonging to different places. The Magistrate should break through all deception and make a sifting inquiry to ascertain how the office employés are all related to a few influential officers.

(c)—*Jails.*

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 14th, 1897.

18. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th March hopes that at least the editor of the *Hitavadi* will be released from jail on the occasion of the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee.

(d)—*Education.*

SARASWAT PATRA,  
Mar. 18th, 1897.

19. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 13th March is glad to see Dr. Martin Dr. Martin's appointment to confirmed in the post of Director of Public the post of Director of Public Instruction.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Mar. 14th, 1897.

20. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 14th March has heard it complained that the Sub-Inspector of Schools, Nawabganj, Dacca district, is inducing teachers and inspecting pandits to compel their boys to purchase a book written by somebody else.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 15th, 1897.

21. In referring to Sir Alexander Mackenzie's praise of Sir Alfred Croft, on the eve of the latter's retirement, the *Som Prakash* of the 15th March cannot agree with His Honour that in Sir Alfred "the natives of Bengal have lost a true and judicious friend." A *true* and *judicious* friend, indeed! It is due to this *true* and *judicious* friend that highly-qualified natives like Mr. Jagadis Chandra Bose, Babu D. N. Mallik and Dr. Prafulla Chandra Rai, have been kept out of the superior grades of the Educational Service. By excluding able natives from the superior grades, Sir Alfred lost the regard of all educated natives.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,  
Mar. 8th, 1897.

22. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 8th March says that though the Sub-Overseer of Netrakona, in the Mymensingh district, inspected the tank in front of Deogariabari, in Singhagram, and admitted it to be in a condition which justified its re-excavation by the Government, nothing further has been done in the matter.

Many people have applied for loans for the excavation of tanks, but though the season for the work is drawing to a close, their applications have yet borne no result.

BASUMATI,  
Mar. 11th, 1897.

23. A correspondent of the *Basumati* of the 11th March complains of the prevalence of water-scarcity in the villages of Loka-nathpur, Jayrampur, Kadipur, Duduputila, in the Nadia district. Almost all the tanks in the villages have run dry, and the wells run dry after 1 P.M. There is a small silted-up streamlet called the Kantal tala near these villages. The little water in this streamlet is fouled by throwing dead bodies into it. If this nuisance is not immediately stopped, the sufferings of the people will be great.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

24. The *Sanjivani* of the 13th March complains of water-scarcity in Chaudanga, in the Nadia district. The Ichamati supplies the village people with water, but it is one mile distant from the village, and people are suffering for the want of a tank. The only tank in the locality, the property of Kusum Bibi, the 8-anna zamindar, has run dry. It should be re-excavated.

SANJIVANI.

25. The same paper complains of water-scarcity in Senhati in the Khulna district. All tanks, not excepting that of the District Board, have run dry. The Board has declined to fill its tank with water from the river and has asked the people to fill it at their own cost.

26. The same paper suggests that, in order to remove the prevailing water-scarcity in Chakdighi and certain other villages in the Hooghly district, the Government should open the Chakdighi anicut and supply the people with canal water.

A suggestion for the removal of water-scarcity in certain villages in the Hooghly district.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 18th, 1897.

27. The *Bangavasi* of the 13th March publishes a cartoon on Municipal election. A young candidate for election, evidently an aristocrat, accompanied by a *durwan* and a *Babu*, is out canvassing for votes. With joined hands he is begging for votes at the house of a fisherman, whom he flatters and fools to the top of his bent. There is, he argues, no difference between him and the fisherman. Equality is the modern principle. These flattering words are followed by an order for twenty maunds of fish, together with the price in advance.

An election cartoon and song.

The cartoon is followed by a song, the burden of which is that there is, at the present time, going on a levelling down of all distinctions. There is now to be no distinction between good and bad, high and low, religion and irreligion, no distinction between Brahman and Chandal, between an honest man and a thief. The rich have turned beggars, i.e. beggars of votes. Thieves are passing for honest men. The sheep and the elephant stand on a footing of equality. *Harhis, doms and muchis* are all candidates for Commissionerships.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 18th, 1897.

28. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 14th March complains that acute water-scarcity prevails in the following villages in the Hooghly district:—Dhopapara, Alisgorh, Gopalbati, Kshetrapur, Jyotnarayan, Tildanga, Madpur, Basuki, Inchua, Tiarnui, Barsat, Hamjibanpur, Matukpur, Kulepara, Gangadharpur, Chandpur and Bakhua. All the tanks in these villages have run dry, and the little water in some of them has become foul and poisonous. It is to be hoped that the Government or the District Board will remove this water scarcity. Formerly the zamindars used to dig tanks and wells, but they have ceased to do so. The Government may, however, prevail upon them to remove the water scarcity prevailing in these villages.

CHINSURA  
VARTAVAHYA,  
Mar. 14th, 1897.

29. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 15th March writes as follows:—

The Lieutenant-Governor on the Calcutta Municipality.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 15th, 1897.

The *Bengalee* wrote that the Lieutenant-Governor was about to deal a deathblow at the municipal administration of Calcutta. The Lieutenant-Governor publicly contradicted this statement, and said that all that he intended to do was to make the municipal machine more workable. The Lieutenant-Governor is proceeding methodically and systematically. He will not adopt any revolutionary or drastic measures. He will not interfere with the principle of self-government, but he will make the principle workable in practice. It is in fact impossible to abolish local self-government, but it is easy to make it exist only in name. And this the Lieutenant-Governor is going to do. He will make the Chairman the absolute master of the Calcutta Municipality, and the municipal officers thoroughly independent of the Municipal Commissioners. The Commissioners will henceforth have to carry out the Chairman's behests with meekness and submission. No Commissioner possessed of any sense of respect ought to submit to this arrangement. Let there be no election, no self-government. Local self-government is not, in our opinion, a great gain to the people. It has not certainly achieved any striking success. Self-government in a country of slaves is an anomaly. In England a municipality is a great power. The London Municipality more than once brought about the fall of the Ministry. But there can be no comparison between England and India.

30. The *Hitaishi* of the 16th March has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's defence of his Entally speech.

The Lieutenant-Governor's defence of his Entally speech is very well got up. There is no lack of argument and precedents in it. Anybody reading this document cannot come to any other conclusion than this—that the Commissioners are worthless dunces who know only how to talk. Though commanding His Honour's style and language, the writer cannot agree in his opinions. Everybody who has any regard for truth must admit that the Commissioners are not worthless talkers pure and simple. His Honour himself

HITAISHI,  
Mar. 16th, 1897.

would have admitted this, if the admission had not collided with his present purpose. His Honour has taken great pains to prove that the Commissioners are worthless, and has ransacked the whole world for precedents in support of his contention. But all to no purpose; for no one will be so far convinced by his arguments as to believe in the correctness of propositions which are, on the very face of them, incorrect. This was not expected of a noble-minded man like Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Whatever His Honour's object in charging the Commissioners with handicapping their executive, it is not a fact that the Commissioners do really handicap their executive or unnecessarily interfere with them. The Commissioners have certainly interfered with Dr. Simpson, but have they ever interfered with either Mr. Williams or Mr. Hughes? If the Commissioners had really meant to curb the powers of their executive, they would certainly not have desisted talking about their Health Officer alone. The Lieutenant-Governor's defence is instinct with prejudice and bias.

As for the Commissioners, they were certainly ill-advised in protesting against the Entally speech. Such a display of spirit did not become a subject people. To quarrel face to face with the ruler is not only productive of no good to a subject people, but evinces their stupidity and does them mischief. Their swaggering has come to this, that the Lieutenant-Governor has been awfully offended with the Municipality.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

HITAVADI,  
ar. 12th, 1897.

Two cooly passengers neglected  
by a railway guard.

31. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th March says:—Babu Iwar Chandra Datta writes to us as follows from Kushtia. We cannot readily bring ourselves to believe what he says. Will the authorities enquire into the matter?—

“On Saturday, the 6th March last, coolies were being conveyed in three carriages in train No. 7, on the eastern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Two cooly women were attacked with cholera in the train and were set down by the guard at the Kumarkhali station. Their parents and relatives entreated hard to be permitted to stay and nurse them but were not allowed to do so. The cooly women crawled to a field behind the station, where they died at night without any attendance or medical treatment. They were buried by *doms*. These poor women would not have probably died if they had obtained medical aid. Will not Government attend to these things?”

HITAVADI.

A native telegraph signaller per-  
secuted by his English superiors.

32. The same paper learns that Babu R. C. Chatterji, signaller of Gauhati, is being persecuted by his English superiors for having complained against Mr. Bomford, who had called him names. The Superintendent, Mr. Hill, has fined him Rs. 10 for his presumption. Will the Director-General of Telegraphs, who is reputed to be a wise, generous and impartial man, attend to this matter? The Director-General should punish Mr. Bomford and others.

SAMAY,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

33. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 12th March makes the following complaints:—

Railway complaints.

There is no platform on the Tolly's Nalla station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Some sort of a platform was made with coal dust and ashes, but it has been washed away. Two dilapidated huts are miscalled “waiting rooms.” There was a female inspector to wait upon female passengers at the station. But there is no such inspector at present.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

Cholera-stricken coolies left at a  
railway station.

34. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 13th March complains that on the 6th March last he found two cholera-stricken coolies left in a helpless condition at the Kumarkhali Railway Station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. There is no cholera ward in the Kumarkhali hospital, and the patients were left on the open field, where they died. Now, when these coolies were attacked with cholera, why were they not taken to Kushtia, where there is a cholera ward? Will the railway authorities take the guard to task for leaving these patients helpless at Kumarkhali, and demand an explanation from the station-master for allowing the guard to leave them at the station in his charge?

## (h)—General.

35. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 9th March objects to the examination of female railway passengers on the platform at Khana Junction. There is nothing in the plague notifications to warrant such inspection. Female

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 8th, 1897.

doctors have been appointed for the examination of female passengers, but their examination in a public manner is frustrating the efforts of the Government to protect their *purda*. European ladies are examined within their compartments, and there is no reason why all female passengers should not be examined in this way. Female passengers in a train do not number more than fifty or sixty, and they can be examined in ten minutes. The present inspection arrangements are preventing many women from travelling by rail.

36. The *Sahachar* of the 10th March thanks Mr. Risley for the kind assurance, conveyed in his reply to the editor of the *Bangavasi*, that he has directed the doctor in charge

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 10th, 1897.

of the plague camp at Khana Junction to see that the police, in taking passengers out of railway carriages for medical examination at that station, do not abuse their powers. The *Englishman* newspaper, in its issue of the 8th March last, says that the *Bangavasi*'s account of the hardships to which passengers are subjected is exaggerated. According to that paper, the police do not at all ill-treat the passengers. But the writer in that paper should have remembered that the Indian police, which is like a meek lamb before any European, nay, before any one who is only dressed like a European, is like a ferocious tiger near an Indian, especially if the Indian is in an Indian's costume. It is very probable, therefore, that so long as the *Englishman*'s European reporter was there he found the police meek and gentle in their treatment of the passengers, and that the native editor of the *Bangavasi*, dressed in *dhuti* and *chudder*, found the police in their true character. The *Englishman* should not be offended with the editor of the *Bangavasi* for drawing a true picture of what takes place at Khana. Unless Government pays particular attention to the matter, the ill-treatment of passengers by the police will not be checked. A medical examination of passengers is perfectly right because it is made in the interest of the public health; but the men and women who are subjected to such examination should be put to as little inconvenience as possible.

37. The *Vikrampur* of the 12th March has the following:—

VIKRAMPUR,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

Plague inspection on railways. O mother Empress of India, you are the jewel of your sex! Who but you, mother, can be expected to show consideration in a matter which is calculated to hurt the modesty of your sex? You could not incur a greater blame than that women have been insulted under your rule. You will err, mother, if you judge the matter by the European standard. O mother, it is only the national history of poor India which can guide you rightly here. You have certainly read the history of the battle of Haldighat in Rajputana—the battle, that is, which saw the loss of India's independence, and of the heroic conduct of countless Indian women who threw themselves on the burning pyre as soon as the battle was lost. Europeans will see nothing wrong in Selim's conduct towards Indian women on that occasion. But the Indian women ascended the burning pyre simply because they could not bear the thought of falling into the hands of any one, except their husbands. Can the history of any other country in the world show another instance of such heroism for the preservation of female honour? Have the women of England, the mother of heroes, even made such a heroic sacrifice for the sake of their religion and chastity? If the warlike sons of England are killed in a battle with Turkey, will there be found a single woman in England brave enough to ascend the burning pyre, rather than fall into the Sultan's hands? No, if such a calamity happens, hundreds of Feringhee women, more concerned about their own comfort and happiness than anything else, will at once become inconstant seekers of pleasure. The Indians will not be very sorry if the plague completely ruins their country, but it will be their insufferable agony if their caste, religion or honour suffers harm. The dirt in the English woman's body, O mother, is washed away with soap and water; but this Indian woman, if dishonoured, is not purified even by burning in *tushnal* (slowly consuming fire).

VIRAKAMPUR,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

38. The same paper has the following:—

The hill exodus.

The evil of the hill exodus shows no sign of abating; on the contrary, the determination of the officials to continue the annual enjoyment is increasing in proportion as the protest of the public is becoming stronger. The caprice of the officials is increasing, because they believe that the Indians, a nation of slaves as they are, can only cry and do nothing else. The officials in India are cheating, not only the subject people, but the Government as well, by shirking their duties, and drawing big salaries for living a life of ease and enjoyment on the cool heights of the hills. But the British Government does not mind this much, because the salaries it pays to its Indian officials are paid, not out of its own pocket, but out of the pockets of its Indian tax-payers.

The Viceroy will wander on the cool heights of Simla till the day his stupid rule comes to an end. For he came to India for no other purpose. This is the last time that a throne like that of India has fallen to a man like him. Never again in his life will he have another opportunity like this of enjoying himself in State. It is really a matter of wonder that His Excellency should be thinking of going to the hills, when millions of his subjects are leaving this world for good for want of food! The people of India have no alternative but to stand dumb and astonished at the Viceroy's conduct. But what are the higher authorities in England doing? Do they not care to keep themselves informed of what is going on in India?

39. The Samay of the 12th March has the following:—

The policy pursued in Mr. Apté's prosecution.

The British Government in India seems to be in constant dread of two things—mutiny and loss of prestige. The Government's fear, however, is baseless, and the objects of its fear are nothing but creations of its own imagination—as shadowy and imaginary as spectres. This fear will harm no one except the British Government itself. It makes us only laugh. Englishmen will never forget the lesson which they were taught in 1857. Acting upon that lesson, they have bound the Indian people with hard-and-fast laws. The Police, the British army, the Arms Act; all these are the fetters with which we have been bound hand and foot. But the Government is not still satisfied: its fear has not yet been laid at rest. It starts at the merest sound, and is alarmed at the slightest incident. Not infrequently it makes itself appear ridiculous in the eye of the public. Half-starved, disarmed and bound hand and foot, is it at all likely that we should rebel against the powerful British Government?

Loss of prestige is another source of the Government's fear and anxiety. Prestige is but a hollow name. In our opinion, the Government's efforts to maintain or enhance its prestige often end in lowering it in the public estimation. The execution of Tikendrajit, the imprisonment of Surendranath, the prosecution of the *Bangavasi*; all these did not enhance but lower British prestige. The Government has again committed a sorry mistake, being at its wits' end in these times of distress. Mr. Govind Binayak Apté is an educated gentleman of Bombay. On the 18th December last he addressed an assembly of about three thousand people on certain glaring defects in the Government's excise and forest administrations. For this he was prosecuted by the Government under sections 117, 225 and 353 of the Indian Penal Code, convicted and sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of two hundred rupees. This is the first time that we see a public speaker prosecuted by the Government, and we fear that the example set by the Bombay Government will be followed by other Provincial Governments. During the trial of the case, the prosecution made much of a document on which the Magistrate relied too much in arriving at his decision. This was a petition to the Bombay Government by about eleven thousand people, praying for the relaxation of certain forest rules. The Bombay Government not only treated the petition with contempt, but used it as documentary evidence against Mr. Apté.

We are more sorry and ashamed than alarmed at the Magistrate's decision. It is a pity that the Government should show so much weakness and so much hardheartedness. To whom are the people to complain, if not to the Government? The head and front of Mr. Apté's offence seems to be that he is an educated gentleman, and that, from a sense of duty, he tried to convince the illiterate masses that they would have their grievances redressed, if they only

brought them to the notice of the Government. Mr. Apté's intention was good, but it involved him in difficulties, and he is imprisoned. Let Bengal and the Bengalis beware. Bengal is the speech-making province *par excellence*, and woe to the Bengali speaker who will venture to publicly criticise the Government's policy! He will be in danger if his speech is followed by a numerously signed petition. There is every likelihood, one may fear, of the passing of a law for the gagging of public speakers.

Since the passing of the Arms Act the Government has committed blunder after blunder, which betrays its want of foresight, its little-mindedness, its cowardice, its antipathy towards the natives. But we ask the Government to calmly consider whether it is acting rightly and judiciously. Are terrorising and gagging sound policy? Is it not better to redress the people's grievances than to ignore them? Is it not a wiser policy to win the people's confidence, than to incur their ill-will? Moreover, you can gag the weak and helpless Indian people, but how will you gag Englishmen like Mr. Hyndman and Mr. Wedderburn?

We have not read Mr. Apté's lecture, and cannot therefore say whether it was seditious or likely to create disaffection. But was it wise to send him to jail, supposing his speech was seditious? Will Mr. Apté's punishment allay the people's discontent? Is this policy of rigour likely to bear desirable consequences, especially at the present moment? We took Lord Sandhurst for a far-sighted and sympathetic ruler. He has sadly disappointed us.

40. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th March writes as follows:—

Government's plague policy. The Medical Board pronounced many houses and bustees in Calcutta extremely unhealthy, but no easy means could be suggested for their improvement, as the work would require the payment of large compensations to owners. Thanks to the plague regulations, an easy means has now been found for improving these houses and bustees, for those regulations empower the Municipal Chairman and Vice-Chairman to destroy huts and portions of houses, and leave the payment of compensation entirely to their discretion. It is easy to see that those authorities will not be very anxious to grant any compensation, and even if they grant any compensation at all out of a sense of decency and delicacy, it will be but a nominal one. What is most amusing in this connection is that owners will be required to bear the cost of the destruction of their own houses.

The Municipal Chairman has also been furnished with a means of compelling owners to reconstruct their houses, for the regulations confer upon him the power of clearing unhealthy houses of their inmates. The Chairman will clear the houses which have been declared unhealthy of their inmates, and the owners will thus be compelled to reconstruct their houses according to the municipal building regulations.

The regulations also confer upon the Chairman and the Health Officer unlimited powers as to the destruction of articles in plague-infected houses, the payment of compensation being left entirely to the discretion of the Chairman.

The regulations about the segregation of patients attacked with plague are, as we have already observed, most inhuman. No adequate arrangement has been made for the protection of the honour of *zazana* ladies. There is no arrangement for their male relatives accompanying them to hospital. The regulations rather speak the other way. Those women who will be really attacked with plague will not probably be insulted, but we are not sure that those who will be removed to hospital on mere suspicion will not be subjected to indignities. Who shall say how many respectable families will be ruined, how many parents, husbands, brothers and relatives will have their hearts broken by the operation of these plague regulations?

Oppression in this connection will be far greater in the mufassal than in Calcutta, for public opinion there is neither so strong nor so educated as in the metropolis. Again, District Magistrates have obtained even more extensive powers than the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality. The District Magistrate will be able to destroy whole buildings, and grant or refuse compensation at his own sweet will and pleasure.

The preparations are all complete for a great *tantrik* worship in Bengal. As soon as the auspicious moment comes, the dreadful spectacle of human sacrifice will be seen. There will be no want of cremation grounds, for many

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houses will be turned into such, and the flames ascending from those houses will serve for sacrificial fire. Such a conflagration could not have taken place in the country if the stars had not been extremely unpropitious to the people.

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Mar. 12th, 1897.

41. The same paper says that the people have been rendered more uneasy by Government's plague regulations than by the plague itself. Government has done away with plague inspection at Hooghly and Howrah,

but inspection is being still made at Khana Junction. In order to enable the female members of his family to avoid this inspection a friend of ours, who was coming from Benares, had reserved a second class compartment, and had armed himself with a certificate of health signed by the Civil Surgeon of Benares and five Assistant Surgeons. But, in spite of this, the female members of his family were made to alight from the train and subjected to an inspection. The ladies felt not a little embarrassed when they had to get down on the crowded platform with babies in their arms. There is great risk of women letting their babies fall in such a squeeze. Our friend himself had a fall in alighting from the train and severely hurt his arm.

The inspection is most offensive to female modesty, as it is made on a crowded platform by touching various parts of the body. We are very sorry that Government has not kept its promise about taking steps to prevent female modesty from being offended. There are but few female compartments in a train, and female passengers can easily be inspected by a lady doctor within those compartments. The plague hospital at the Junction is a wretched shed, which freely admits heat and cold, and patients suffering from cholera and small-pox are kept in it together with those who are detained on the suspicion of being attacked with the plague.

HITAVADI.

42. A correspondent of the same paper says that female passengers by steamer are being inspected at the Damukdia Ghât station. Plague inspection at the Damukdia Ghât station on the Eastern Bengal Railway in a manner so shameless and inhuman as to defy description. Women are surrounded by policemen like accused persons in a criminal Court, and parts of their bodies are thoroughly examined at a distance from their husbands and other male relatives. Such inspection is extremely offensive to female modesty. Female passengers should be examined by a lady doctor at a place where they will not be exposed to the gaze of male spectators. It should be enquired whether there was any reasonable ground for suspecting those passengers to be infected with the plague who have already been detained in hospital on such suspicion.

Policemen are extorting money from people by threatening to remove them to hospital. This has created quite a panic, so that the people of the neighbouring villages, and particularly the women, do not venture out of home. The authorities should put a stop to this oppression.

BANGAVASI.  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

43. The *Bangavasi* of the 13th March publishes a letter from a correspondent complaining that a male doctor is publicly examining female passengers, with the help of the police, at Damukdia Ghât. The editor sent this

letter to Mr. Risley, President of the Medical Board, with the request that arrangements might be made to have female passengers inspected within their compartments, and by none except female doctors. To this Mr. Risley replied that inspection in the carriages was impracticable, but orders had been issued to provide moveable screens for the inspection of native ladies, so that the space in front of the carriages where they stood might be effectively secluded, and would be entered only by the lady doctors. Mr. Risley's reply satisfies the editor, and he hopes that it will satisfy and reassure the public. There can be no objection to inspection if it can be conducted without annoyance and insult to women. Mr. Risley's letter shows that if the people lay their grievances patiently and submissively before the Government they are sure to be redressed. It is a great relief that in this crisis Sir Alexander Mackenzie is at the head of the Government. His kindness and courtesy have won the hearts of the people.

SULABH DAINIK  
Mar. 16th, 1897.

44. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 16th March has the following:—  
The attitude of the officials towards the people.

Has Lord Elgin been at all affected by this widespread distress, which has moved even Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, far as she is

from India? Hundreds are dying of starvation; but has this moved Lord Elgin to tears? Englishmen are, in our opinion, by nature cruel. They kill old and diseased animals by way of putting an end to their sufferings. Lord Elgin is an Englishman, and we need not expect great good from him. But does he remember that he is a Viceroy, a Governor-General, a ruler of millions of men, and as such has many duties to perform? Lord Lytton was a bad ruler, but he, even he, felt for the people and created the Famine Insurance Fund. But what has Lord Elgin done? He at first tried to dissuade the Secretary of State from raising subscriptions in England for famine relief. He has not even been able to make the small sacrifice of postponing the Simla exodus, which entails a huge waste of money. It seems that the officials are gradually forgetting that England has a responsibility to fulfil by governing the Indian people well. There is a great difference between the past and the present officials. It is owing to the negligence and want of sympathy of these officials that the Indian people are fast losing their confidence in the justice and integrity of British rule. There was a time when the people were eloquent in their praise of that rule. At present they are at best its lukewarm supporters. The approaching Diamond Jubilee would have evoked unparalleled enthusiasm if it had come a few years earlier. At present the people will celebrate it in a half-hearted manner. Under the grinding rule of the present officials the people have lost the relish of enjoyment. People are dying in hundreds and thousands, but the officials must go to the hills to refresh themselves. The Viceroy is a tool. Sir James Westland is busy devising means for the importation of Europeans and Eurasians into the public service. The Lieutenant-Governor is busy with the Municipality. The Magistrates are high-handed. Who will look after the starving people? If the Viceroy had been efficient and sympathetic, every thing would have gone well.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

45. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 13th March says that now that a Bill for the suppression of rain-gambling in Bengal has

Legislative prohibition of horse-racing necessary. been drawn up, it is proper that an attempt should also be made to put a stop to gambling in the form

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

of horse-racing. Horse-racing is the openest of all kinds of gambling, and lakhs upon lakhs are squandered on it every year in India. That no one says anything about stopping it, is because European officials are among those who indulge in it. But gambling in any shape being a sin in the eye of the Musalmans, the writer will be glad to see the Government take steps to put a stop to horse-racing.

46. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 17th March has the following

The Local Authorities Loan Bill. on the Bill to enable local authorities to borrow

money for temporary emergencies:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 17th, 1897.

It is the desire of many officials to place a heavy burden of debt on the shoulders of district boards and municipalities. The Government also very much likes the idea of making these public bodies bear the expenditure incurred on such temporary emergencies as famine, flood and epidemic. Taxation has reached its highest limits, and the Government cannot venture to increase it in the teeth of opposition in this country and in England, and in disregard of the opinion of the Herschell Committee that it should be increased no further. The Government is therefore thinking of shifting a portion of its burden on to the shoulders of district boards and municipalities, by making them bear at least a portion of the expenditure incurred on the occasion of temporary emergencies. The Government has diverted the famine fund from its legitimate purpose, and it has become urgently necessary to find out a new way of providing for famine relief. The Bill under notice will enable district boards and municipalities to borrow money for a temporary emergency like famine. To pay off the debt they will have to impose a new tax or enhance the existing taxes. Herein lies the objection to the Bill. The famine fund has been spent up. The income-tax, which was meant to be a famine tax, is used for different purposes. With what face do you make a proposal, the effect of which will be to impose a new famine tax through municipalities and district boards? Do you take the people for fools, and do you think that they will not be able to

understand the object of the new Bill? Are not district boards and municipalities semi-official bodies, and are they not regarded by the Government itself as a part and parcel of the administrative machinery? The Government has imposed a portion of its burden on them, and is going to impose another large portion of its burden on their shoulders. The district boards and municipalities are already overburdened, and they will not be able to bear more burden. The Government has hit upon an admirable plan of increasing its resources. The Government will, by virtue of this device, be able to show reduction of expenditure in the budget. It will also be able to spend its resources on frontier expeditious, &c., leaving it to the municipalities and district boards to meet all temporary emergencies such as famine and plague. The voice of complaint will be stopped, and there will be no difficulty in silencing the critics in this country and in England, who protest against the Government's financial policy.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

GENERAL AND  
GAUHAR-I-ASFI,  
Mar. 7th, 1897.

47. The *General and Gauhar-i-Asfi* of the 7th March says that the report of the *Akhbari Am* about the appointment of Maulvi The Prime Ministership, Bhopal. Abdul Jubbar Khan Bahadur, c.i.e., of Calcutta, as Wazir of the Bhopal State, cannot be accepted as correct. The Maulvi will not probably accept the office. In the writer's opinion it would be better to appoint Nawab Syed Ameer Husain Khan Bahadur, c.i.e., Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, to the Ministership.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

48. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 13th March is glad to find that, acting on its suggestion, the Government has rewarded Maulvi Abdul Jubbar Khan Bahadur, who served of the Bhopal State. it long and faithfully, by appointing him Minister of the Bhopal State. As a servant of Government and as a Member of the Bengal Council, the Khan Bahadur did justice to the offices he filled. It is hoped that he will win popularity in Bhopal.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Mar. 8th, 1897.

49. The *Charu Mihir* of the 8th March says that, though subscriptions are being raised in the Mymensingh district for the Famine relief in Mymensingh. purpose of famine-relief, the Magistrate sends every raiyat who asks for relief to his own zamindar, and his example is, no doubt, imitated by his subordinates. But are the zamindars to pay twice towards famine-relief? If the policy adopted by the Magistrate of Mymensingh is followed in other districts, people in East Bengal must severely suffer.

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 10th, 1897.

50. The *Sahachar* of the 10th March says that, according to the Famine Commission, the duty of keeping the people alive during a famine rests solely and exclusively with the Government. No private subscription should be raised for this purpose, and if such subscriptions are at all raised, they should be devoted not to reducing the Government's burden, but to supplying the sufferers whose lives have been saved by the Government with small comforts, and to meeting the after effects of famine, such as giving the people who have been rendered destitute by it a fresh start in life by supplying them with seed-grains, cattle, and implements of husbandry. But in the present instance the Government of India has made a departure from this policy by throwing the burden of the maintenance of orphans, of poor but respectable men and of *pardanishin* ladies upon the charity of the public. What if the public refused to maintain them, as they cannot be compelled by the law to do so? Should the orphans and the respectable male and female sufferers die of starvation? In a time of famine the public are certainly morally bound to help the Government with money. But they are neither morally nor legally bound to take upon themselves the duty of maintaining any class of the Government's subjects. Lord Elgin's policy of famine is, indeed, unworthy of the liberal spirit of British rule. If His Lordship persists in this policy, he will incur odium with the British public.

51. The *Pratikar* of the 12th March says that, though the month of Falgun is over, there is still no rain in the Murshidabad

Prospects of the crops in the Murshidabad district. The prospects of the *aus* crop, which forms the staple food crop of the district, is therefore exceedingly gloomy.

Relief operations in the Kaliganj thana, Khulna district. The mango crop, too, which supplies one daily meal to the poor people of the district during the months of Baisakh and Jyaistha, will be very poor.

52. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th March writes as follows:—

Subscriptions are being raised everywhere for the relief of distress, a fund has been created with that object, orders have been passed by Government for affording relief, and men have been appointed for the purpose, and yet the result is not such as was expected. Relief operations are not being satisfactorily conducted. Relief works have been opened in many places, but owing to the incapacity of the officers entrusted with the superintendence of such works all who want relief are not getting it and people are dying of starvation. In saying this we do not draw upon our imagination. We publish below what a correspondent says on the subject:—

"There is terrible distress in the Kaliganj thana in the Khulna district, and attempts are being made by Government to give relief. The thana has been divided into four circles, with a circle officer and his subordinates in charge of each, and with a Superintendent over all. The Collector and the Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Westmacott, too, are visiting the place from time to time. But the result is not satisfactory. Males, who are hardly able to bear the weight of their own bodies, and females unaccustomed to the work are being required to spin five seers of jute every day. Those who are obtaining relief are somehow managing to live, but many are coming back disappointed. On Thursday, the 25th February last, many went in expectation of obtaining relief, but few obtained it. A large crowd, consisting of men, women, and children, gathered on the open space before the *gola* in the expectation of obtaining doles of rice, but on account of the rigour of the Famine Code almost every one of them had to suffer the greatest hardship. Some of them had got no meal the day before, and others had starved for a longer period. But relief could not be afforded to many that day for want of time, and the poor men had to pass the night on the spot on the dust. There was the same confusion the next day. Some of the applicants had their names very low on the list, while the names of others did not unfortunately occur in it at all. Yet everybody stood in the hope of obtaining relief. But as they were already emaciated and had besides been starving they began to drop down unconscious one after another. On Thursday three fainted away on the southern bank of the river and one on the northern bank, and on Friday four old women were in the same way on the point of death. I myself saved the lives of two old women by giving them milk to drink. A circle officer saved a dying woman by giving her milk and extract of parched rice with his own hand. The Deputy Magistrate himself tried to restore the unconscious women to sense by cooling them with a fan. On Friday the Collector himself saw all this, and yet, strangely enough, none of these officers have yet come to their senses. It is strange that relief is not yet being largely given. About two weeks ago, Kailasnani Goalini died in the thana. The Subdivisional Medical Officer held a *post-mortem* examination and said her death was due to starvation, and yet the officers have not awoken to the gravity of the situation. Let Government yet arrange for extensive relief, or many people will only come to die at the relief centres. Many distressed persons are being reassured by hopes of an enquiry, but no arrangement is being made for enabling them to live in the interim. Will not Mr. Westmacott take pity upon the people even after this? We humbly beseech Government to remove the defects in the present mode of affording relief."

53. The *Sansodhini* of the 12th March complains of the conduct of the District Engineer of Chittagong. The Chittagong

Distress and relief works in Chittagong. The District Board sanctioned the construction of certain local works as famine-relief measures, but the Engineer is resolved to get all these works done by contractors, who are not likely to engage famine-stricken people. The Engineer was specially ordered to de-water the Dewan *dighi* of Sitakunda at once, but he has not begun

PRATIKAR,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

SANSODHINI.  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

work as yet. A native Engineer would not have ventured to disobey the Board's order in this way.

A correspondent of the same paper complains of prevailing distress in the villages of Hamia, Adhunagar, Amtali, Bashahatia, Garudia, Chakfirani, Dakhin Sukchari, Lohagara, Chanda, Narischa, Pantrisha and Amirabad—all in the Chittagong district. On the 4th March last, famine-stricken people flocked to the khas tahsil office at Adhunagar. Among them was a boy of eight, who was starving for several days. It is to be hoped that the District Magistrate will take notice of these famine-stricken people.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

54. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 13th March complains of the prevalence of distress in the villages on both sides of the Kopataksha (Kabadak) in the Khulna district. Government has opened relief works for the distressed, but the raiyats have very little left them, and they will not be able to cultivate their lands next year. The Government will not grant *tuccavi* loans to raiyats who have not paid their rents to their zamindars without the latter's permission. Most of the raiyats in these villages are in debt to their zamindars, and they will be practically deprived of the benefit of these loans.

Agriculture in these places has deteriorated on account of the zamindars of Satkhira joining the Kabadak and the Sirsa by a *khal* newly cut. Salt-water from the Sirsa now enters the Kabadak, and this salt-water damages the crops. A *bandh* should be constructed at the mouth of the *khal* joining the two rivers.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

55. The *Sanjivani* of the 13th March publishes letters from correspondents, giving lengthy accounts of the distress prevailing in Bengal. The writer appeals to the charitable feelings of the Indian public, and calls upon them to come to the rescue of their famine-stricken countrymen. The *Sanjivani*'s travelling correspondent gives the following report of distress prevailing in the Nadia district :—

*Bejhpara*.—Acute distress prevails in this village, and seven families are in a pitiable condition. Their homesteads are dilapidated. They have sold off all their belongings. Wild roots and plants are all that they have to eat. Many are destitute of the barest means of livelihood.

*Gachha*.—This village is in no better condition. The lower and middle classes are equally in distress. Most are living on wild roots and plants, and almost all have been reduced to skeletons. I met one who did not look like one alive. He was like a bag of bones with a paint of tar on it. These starving people have lost the power of locomotion. They live in hovels in which even cats and dogs would not live. The officers in charge of the Gachha test works paid a passing visit to this village, but no good came of that. Most of the people in the village are so weak that they are not likely to stand the fatigue of earth-digging. They are fit for such light work as spinning and rope-making. The wages on relief works are too low to maintain more than one person. The Gachha test works are for able-bodied men and women. No provision has been made for the weak and the disabled, for children, and for widows and orphans. These people, however, are in most urgent need of help. I found many people too weak to stir out of their homes. Most of them are in rags. Boys and girls of ten to fourteen should be employed on relief works, and wages should be raised. Rice is selling at ten seers per rupee, and it is next to impossible to maintain a family on two annas a day. Effect should be given to the sections of the Famine Code which provide for the employment of the weak in spinning, weaving, mat-making, rope-making, and husking. The poor, middle classes should also be provided for, and local men, instead of outsiders, should be employed as clerks on relief works. The number of labourers on relief works is daily increasing. People are not satisfied with the wages paid for tank-digging in Gachha. This is the only reason why so few have taken to tank-digging. Why should people work so hard if they cannot even get two meals a day? Gratuitous relief should be given to those who are not in a position to work.

*Murha Gachha*.—Acute distress prevails in this village. Last January the District Magistrate paid a visit to this village. Starving people flocked to him to lay their grievances before him. But they were turned

out by his peons. Many, however, obstinately clung to the place, and went on dinning their complaints into the Magistrate's ears. At last, quite tired out, the Magistrate ordered rice worth two rupees to be distributed among hundreds of people, rode his horse and left the place. In the evening I went the round of the village. After a day's work, or begging, the people were now preparing their scanty meal. This was the only meal they had for the whole day, and not a few had not even this scanty meal. They had virtually to starve. A child of three, who had starved the whole day, was found crying and munching a handful of rice. In many houses there was nothing to cook a meal with. Distress was visible in these houses, and despair was painted deep on the faces of the housewives. Tanks and streamlets have run dry and the fisherwomen are in great distress. The Musalmans are in no better condition. They are dragging a miserable existence with two or three pice a day. There is absolutely no demand for labour. Poor women live miserably by collecting firewood and cowdung and selling them to well-to-do people. This, however, fetches them no more than three or four pice a day.

*Dharmada.*—The poor middle classes are in great distress in this village. They have an income of not more than four or five rupees a month. With this they cannot make the two ends meet. Many are starving, and most are living by begging or borrowing. The children are half gone with starvation.

*Lohardaga.*—Most of the people in this village are raiyats. Many of them are virtually starving. The ploughing season has come, but the raiyats are too weak to do any active or out-door work. The *mahajans* have refused to grant them loans of paddy and they have nothing to eat. At this time they are being also troubled for the payment of the chaukidari tax. How can starving people pay the tax? The collection of the tax should be postponed for a few months.

The following is the list of those who are in extreme distress in the villages mentioned above:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Murhagacha	... 17	87	65
Dharmada	... 16	26	40
Lohardaga	... 4	16	11
Gachha	... 2	8	11
Bejhpara and Chhubni	11	15	20

In the same villages there are two men, seventeen women and six children who are in great distress, and who would accept help given privately.

Correspondents of the same paper complain of prevailing scarcity in other parts of Bengal.

*Jamalpur.*—Distress prevails in this village in the Mymensingh district. Many were so long living chiefly on potato, but potato is almost finished, and many are living on *arum*. Help is urgently called for.

*Bankhand.*—The following people are in great distress in Bankhand in the Dacca district:—

- (1) Akul Rishi, with a wife and four children.
- (2) Nadi Rishi, with a son.
- (3) Bhuban Rishi, with a wife and a son.
- (4) Bhairab Rishi's widow, with four children.
- (5) Kharia Rishi, with a wife and four children.

*Juniadaha.*—Acute distress prevails in this village in the Nadia disirict. Not to speak of the lower classes, the middle classes are very badly off. The number of beggars is swelling. Labourers are out of employment. Water scarcity, too, prevails. These people will fare very ill if the Government does not soon come to their rescue.

56. A correspondent of the same paper complains of prevailing distress in the Central Provinces. There has been scarcity in these provinces for the last four years, and millions of people have been reduced to their last extremity.

Distress in the Central Provinces. Thousands have now been turned into beggars. In hundreds and thousands they are flocking to cities. Speech fails to give a faithful description of their appearance. It will not be too much to say that they are turned into skeletons. They are like bags of bone with a cover of stinking skin over them. Many

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have lost even the power of speech. There are many among them whom not even careful nursing and medical treatment will save. Starving naked children are found lying on the streets, forsaken by their parents, who have either died or fled. Little children, in ravenous hunger, are found picking seeds of grain in the streets. Emaciated women go about almost naked.

The same is the state of things in Satna in Rewa, in Central India. Relief works have been opened here, but there are many who prefer death to the indignity of begging or serving on relief works. The best way to help these people is to sell them corn cheap. Acute distress prevails in the interior, where people are living on wild roots and plants.

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M. r. 13th, 1897.

57. A special correspondent of the same paper lately paid a visit to the Relief-houses in Allahabad. He writes as follows:—

Among the inmates of the relief-houses we felt as if we were among the dead. Their pale faces and emaciated figures moved my heart. I stood speechless and in tears. The male ward contained five or six hundred people with emaciated figures, sunken eyes and cadaverous countenances. They were all almost naked, and seeing me, they made gestures more eloquent than words would have been, from which I learnt that they were actually suffering from hunger. In the female ward I beheld the same spectacle. I could not distinguish between the old from the young,—they were all so emaciated. The food given to these famine-stricken people did not appear to be adequate. The women seem to be in dread of the "mates" who, it is alleged, often flog them. The mates are given more food and are in a better condition. My description is not in the least exaggerated. Exaggeration is impossible in regard to these people. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces is doing his best to relieve the distressed. But his good intention is being partially frustrated by selfish and unscrupulous officers who have been placed in charge of these relief works. It is to be hoped that His Honour will appoint honest men for the supervision of these works.

SANJIVANI.

58. Another special correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—

If you like to see moving skeletons, go to Distress in Jhansi. Central India—go to Jhansi. Look there and see the moving skeleton of a woman, grown prematurely old. She has with her three other skeletons—her three children! The mother, hardened by hunger, is eating street refuse, while her children are vainly crying for food. Here is a man drinking the foul gruel in the drain of a house. Here, again, is a woman driven mad by hunger and grief. You will witness such painful scenes in every town and in every village. The Government, of course, is trying its best to relieve the distressed, but its object is being frustrated by dishonest and unprincipled officers, whom there are none to properly supervise. The famine-stricken people are ill-treated by these men, and they get most filthy and unwholesome food in the relief-houses. It is true that in every town a famine committee has been appointed to manage the relief works. But the members of the committee are not honest, and they often try their best to benefit themselves at the cost of the famine-stricken people. Favouritism and dishonesty reign supreme in these committees.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 13th, 1897.

Food and water scarcity in some villages in the 24-Parganas district.

59. The residents of the villages Pauji, Mahmudpur, &c., in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, writing in the *Mihiro-Sudhakar* of the 13th March, complain of severe distress in the villages in question owing to food as well as water scarcity. Many poor people are not getting a meal even in two or three days, and their children are being kept barely alive by village charity. The only *dighi* which supplied the villages with drinking water has almost completely dried up. The Magistrate was moved to re-excavate it; but, beyond measurement by a sub-overseer, nothing else has been done. If the Magistrate has not the tank re-excavated without delay people will die of thirst.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Mar. 14th, 1897.

The statistics of the import and export of food-grains.

60. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 14th March thanks Government for a copy of the statistics of the import and export of food-grains. The figures, however, do not clearly show the gain of the country in food-grain traffic. No statistics for the month of November 1896 have been received; but those for the several weeks of December and the three weeks of January show that even

in a year of famine like the present vast quantities of food-grains have been exported to foreign countries. There has been a falling off in the export to poorer countries, but rich England has carried on its loot of Indian food-grains to the fullest extent. In the year 1895-96, 79,25,038 cwts. of rice were exported to foreign countries; and of this quantity the United Kingdom alone took one-seventh, the remainder being divided among the other countries. In the current year the United Kingdom took 13,552 cwts. during the week ending the 7th January, 12,283 cwts. during the week ending 14th January, and 26,672 cwts. during the week ending the 21st January. Thus England, Scotland and Ireland are still taking plenty of rice, wheat, grain and pulses every week from Bengal, leaving the people of the country in severe distress. The money, too, which is coming from England in return for this merchandise is indirectly increasing prices in this country. It is the middle classes who have little money, and who are in consequence suffering most; and it is England which is principally responsible for their sufferings.

The fact that last year East Bengal, the granary of Calcutta, took largely from Calcutta, shows that it was in severe distress. The low lands of East Bengal might have reaped an 8-anna crop last winter, as estimated by Government; but the distress there is increasing because Government has afforded no relief. The resolution of Government not to give relief to districts which have reaped an 8-anna crop cannot be too strongly condemned. By all means, forbear giving relief to those particular people who have reaped an 8-anna crop. But why should no relief be given to people in the same district who have reaped a poorer crop than 8-annas and who have no chance of being in the least benefited by the crops of their more fortunate fellows?

61. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 15th March complains of the prevalence of distress in Dacca. Crime has increased. Relief works and relief houses should be opened. The Magistrate is raising subscriptions for Bihar. He should look nearer home.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Mar. 15th, 1897.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

62. The *General and Gauhar-i-Asfi* of the 7th March says that the Panjab Musalmans have proposed to appoint Sardar Mohammad Heyat, Khan Bahadur, C.S.I., Malick Omar Heyat, Khan Bahadur, and Nawab Zulfakar Ali, Khan Bahadur, as delegates to convey a suitable congratulation to Her Majesty the Empress of India on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. But it would have been better if Nawab Muhsin-ul-mulk, Maulvi Syed Mehdi Ali, Khan Bahadur, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahmud, Khan Bahadur, had been selected for this purpose. From Bengal Nawab Syed Ameer Husain, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., the Presidency Magistrate, Nawab Syed Abdus Subhan Chowdhary, Mr. Abbul Fazl, Mohamad Abdur Rahman, and Mr. Abul Husan, Khan Bahadur, Judge of the Small Cause Court, should go as delegates.

63. The *Sahachar* of the 10th March says that the auspicious and memorable celebration which will take place throughout the British Empire in June next has not had its parallel in the history of any other country. No other reign or country can, in fact, boast of so many incidents, which have resulted in the good of the whole civilised world, as have taken place during the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. India has received no end of benefits at the hands of that goddess. It is owing to her favour that the Indians have seen the dawn of a political life and see their countrymen seated on the High Court benches. Heaven only can say why in this year of jubilee the shadow of death has fallen over all India. The Indians, however, console themselves with the thought that "God strikes him most whom He loves most." And they will celebrate the jubilee by offering up prayers for the safety, happiness and long life of Her Majesty and her children. Everybody will be glad to see a marble statue of the Empress erected in Calcutta.

64. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 11th March reproduces a letter received from Pertabgarh, stating that the Musalmans of Pertabgarh and the Diamond Jubilee. Muhammadans of that place showed their loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty by supplementing

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GAUHAR-I-ASFI,  
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SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 10th, 1897.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Mar. 11th, 1897.

their Id-ul-Fitr prayer with a warm prayer for the Empress's prosperity and long life, and by expressing their heartfelt joy at the proposed celebration of the Diamond Jubilee.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 12th, 1897.

65. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th March contains a cartoon. Lord Elgin and his staff are on their way to Simla, casting an eager, uplifted look in the direction of that lofty hill retreat. A distant view is given of a palace in Simla, where music and dancing are being vigorously kept up by English ladies. But while His Excellency's eye is being strained to catch a glimpse of that spectacle, crowds of half-naked famished skeleton figures, surrounded by their dead and dying relatives, men and women and children, with outstretched arms, appeal to him and ask him to wait for a minute that they may have the satisfaction of having their last look of him, their earthly Providence! And they address His Excellency as follows:—

“ WAIT ONE MOMENT! ”

“ Wait, Your Excellency, wait one moment! Let us have a look at your godly appearance to our heart's content, and have done with our heart's agony. We shall live no longer, nor shall we trouble you with our prayers. This is our last prayer—stand before us for a moment. My Lord, ours is not the good fortune to see our Sovereign. You are the Sovereign's representative! You are our Sovereign. The Sovereign is our god. My Lord, you are our god. The Sovereign is our father; Elgin, you are our father. Therefore it is that we pray to you with joined hands: stand before us for one moment, so that at the last moment of our lives our desire to see our Sovereign, our god, and our father may be fulfilled.

“ Be not frightened by seeing our ghostly appearances. It is starvation that has made us so. We are not ghosts. My Lord, you belong to a nation of heroes. You are a hero. The sight of these bodies of ours, reduced to skeletons, may inspire others with fear, but it should not certainly alarm you. Certainly a hero's heart should not tremble to hear us, weak as we are, utter unearthly voices. Therefore do we say, mighty hero, stand fearless, and let us soothe and comfort our hearts by looking at you.

“ My Lord, we do not know what it is to stand in the way of the Sovereign's happiness. You would have a little rest in the peaceful seclusion of Simla after hard work. Why should we stand in your way? You would refresh your fatigued soul with the sweet songs of celestial female choristers on the heights of Simla, and why should we oppose it? You would forget all your cares and anxieties in your enjoyment of the dance of the celestial nymphs, and why should we oppose it? We can cheerfully lay down our lives, and we do not know how to produce the Sovereign's displeasure or stand in the way of his pleasures and amusements. Do not, therefore, fear that your merry-making will be interfered with. Wait for one moment with a fearless heart, and let us lay down our lives in your presence, and depart in peace with our wives and children, parents, brothers and relations.

“ My Lord, we have suffered much. We are consumed with hunger, stung to the quick by the wails of hungry children, deeply grieved by the famished appearance of our parents, brothers and friends, and we at last seek shelter and solace in death, which gives rest and peace to all. And yet we have not so much as even entertained the thought of saving our lives by curtailing the expenses of your merry-making, of your favourite pleasure trip to the hills. And death has at length become propitious to us. It is eagerly stretching out its hands to take our children in its arms—those darlings of ours, the apple of our eyes and the eternal fountain of our delight. It has already given shelter to friend and relation. Today is a day of joy and rejoicing to us. It will see the end of all our troubles, anxieties and fears. Today we commence our pilgrimage to the *Anandakanan* (bower of bliss). Bid us farewell with a smiling face and go.

“ Viceroy, Lord Elgin, we have no other prayer to make; though we are starving, we will not ask for food; though we are dying for want of money, we will not ask for money; and though the stopping of your Simla pleasure trip for one year may save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people like ourselves, we will not pray for that. Our only prayer is—wait for one moment

and let us die with our eyes fixed on your beautiful face. That the enlightened and righteous Viceroy, who is so anxious to please his subjects, has not even at the moment of our leaving this world deigned to cast a look on us, is grief too heavy to bear. We shall have mental peace if we are fortunate enough to lay down our lives in the presence of our kind and paternal Viceroy. Hence we pray with joined hands—'My Lord, wait for one moment.'

## URIYA PAPERS.

66. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 10th February is sorry to note that the passengers travelling by railway from Barang, in Cuttack, to Puri are detained at Jatni for two or more hours, and hopes that this inconvenience will be soon removed.

67. A correspondent of the same paper points out that the local authorities are labouring under the wrong impression that there is a large stock of food-grain in the Balasore district.

68. The *Samvadavahika* of the 11th February pays credit to the Auditor of the Tributary Mahals Accounts, through whose exertions serious defalcations of money in the office of the Raja of Nilgiri were brought to light, and the Overseer, Shib Narayan Ghose, who was found guilty, was brought to justice and punished adequately.

69. The *Utkaldipika* of the 13th February is sorry to learn that the internal management of the Puri temple, in regard to daily observances and rituals, is not good, and draws the attention of the Puri Rani to the same.

The Rani should engage the services of an able manager on a suitable pay.

70. The same paper is glad to find that the Central Charitable Relief Committee at Calcutta has begun its work well and has opened communications with branch district committees, and hopes that if the non-official community assist the district committees in the proper way, the funds at the disposal of such committees will be a real blessing to those who are now in great distress, and who cannot be reached through the machinery of official relief.

71. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 10th February is sorry to find that there is a misapprehension in official circles to the effect that the stock of food-grains in India is considerable, and that it is known only to the trading classes, who will bring it out when necessity arises.

72. The same paper views with alarm the extraordinary export of rice from the district of Sambalpur, in the Central Provinces, through the agency of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and observes that the people of that district will soon repent for their folly and thoughtlessness in parting with their food-grains at such a critical time.

73. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 17th February and the *Utkaldipika* of the 20th February note with delight the fall of a few showers of rain in that month as encouraging the drooping spirits of the agricultural classes, who form the major portion of the people of Orissa.

74. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* requests Government to revive the manufacture of *panga* salt on the Orissa coast, and thereby give work to a large number of men in these days of scarcity. The writer is of opinion that the Orissa seaboard, extending from Midnapore to Ganjam, is very well adapted by nature to such an industry, and that the manufacture, if revived, will not only benefit the people, but enrich the Government as well. The writer urges that though there may be some difficulty in deciding upon the acceptance of the proposal for a considerable number of years, there is no harm in reviving the manufacture at once until the rains set in, for it will bring great relief to those distressed tracts that lie on the seaboard.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
Feb. 10th, 1897.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

SAMVADVAHIIKA,  
Feb. 11th, 1897.

UTKALDIPAKA,  
Feb. 13th, 1897.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Feb. 10th, 1897.

SAMBALPUR,  
HITAISHINI.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Feb. 17th, 1897.

UTKALDIPAKA,  
Feb. 20th, 1897.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

Increase of theft in the Cuttack district.

SAMVADVAHAKA,  
Feb. 18th, 1897.

SAMVADVAHAKA.

URIA DEPIKA,  
Feb. 20th, 1897.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Feb. 17th, 1897.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

75. The same paper is informed that theft has increased in the town of Jajpur, in the Cuttack district, and draws the attention of the authorities concerned to the same.

76. The *Samvadvahika* of the 18th February regrets to report ten deaths from cholera in the Balasore district, and looks upon it as a sad prelude to a quickly approaching famine after a stated period.

77. The same paper, as also its contemporary of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 17th February, recommend the abolition of capital punishment from the United Kingdom, together with its colonies and dependencies, and say that those European countries that have abolished it have suffered very little by the change, and have, on the other hand, profited much.

78. The *Utkaldipika* of the 20th February requests the District Magistrate of Cuttack to find out those men and women of the middle and respectable classes who are rendered helpless by the present scarcity, and who therefore stand in urgent need of relief, and help them in proper time.

79. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 17th February is sorry to state that the agricultural classes of the Bilaspur district are selling off their cattle at cheap rates, being hard pressed by immediate want of food.

80. The same paper is sorry to note that the number of dacoities in the Sambalpur district is increasing at a rapid rate, and suggests that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has made that district easily accessible to foreign *badmashes*, who have formed themselves into gangs of robbers, who commit depredations with impunity and run off to distant places undetected.

81. The same paper suggests the circulation of smaller copper coins, such as half-pice, pies, &c., in the Bamra State of the Central Provinces, where they are not in currency, as their want is keenly felt by the people of that State in their daily bargains with one another.

82. The same paper calls upon the authorities to stop the export of rice from Sambalpur, as the continual depletion of its stock of food-grains by foreign merchants will render it helpless in no time.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 20th March 1897.